

**Curriculum Vitae for David Leeming** (updated Mar 08)

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**First names:** David  
**Date of birth:** 19-11-1962  
**Nationality:** UK  
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**Main area of expertise:** ICT for development, educational technology, distance learning, rural development, rural networking, ICT capacity development, ICT strategy planning

**Most recent long term position:** Project Manager, Distance Learning Centres Project, Education Sector Investment and Reform Programme, Solomon Islands. (STABEX 99). Long term EDF (EU) external TA contract, Dec 2004 – Dec 2007. Project site [www.schoolnet.net.sb](http://www.schoolnet.net.sb)

**Availability:** From March 2008.

**Short Summary:** I am an expert in ICT for development, international consultant and project manager, with 12 years experience in the Pacific Islands region. My focus is on ICT for education and sustainable rural development. I am best known as the Technical Advisor to the Solomon Islands People First Network ([www.peoplefirst.net.sb](http://www.peoplefirst.net.sb)), and more lately for a focus on the delivery of education services to remote areas, as manager of a project establishing distance learning centres connected with VSAT broadband Internet in Solomon Islands ([www.schoolnet.net.sb](http://www.schoolnet.net.sb)).

My key experience is in the fields of ICT for Development; ICT for education, distance learning and eLearning; educational technology and distance learning; in particular concerning access for remote rural communities, eGovernment and ICT strategy and participatory methods in rural development. My work in Solomon Islands and PNG is replicable across the region and in other regions such as Africa.

A research scientist by training, I have worked in International Development since February 1996 in the Pacific Islands region. I have experience at International level with EU (I am an experienced E\$DF project manager), UNDP and AusAid programmes. My main work has been in Solomon Islands where I helped UNDP to launch a sustainable rural ICT network, the People First Network, and then mobilize donor funding and build partnerships to successfully up-scale it to national level. PFnet is now world-recognised best practice project; and is quoted as such in UNDP publications and a report commissioned by AusAid on the Virtual Colomobo Plan (Curtain, 2003).

Since 2004 I have been focused on the educational aspects of ICT for development, as Project Manager of the EU-funded Distance Learning Centres Project for the Ministry of Education. This work is also recognized as best practice in the region; I was asked by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to present the DLCP as a case study with recommendations to the Forum Education Ministers Meeting, held in Auckland, Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 2007 and attended by Education Ministers from the entire region. This constitutes advice given on a regional basis.

I have also made leading contributions to national ICT strategy development in the region. I have contributed to several international conferences on ICT for development and ICT for education and have published papers in international journals.

## Curriculum Vitae – David Leeming

I am a member of the Pacific Islands Internet Society (PICISOC) organised an ICT in Education theme for their 2007 PacINET conference in Honiara, August 2007. I also have more general experience in the deployment of appropriate technology, including solar power for remote schools and communities.

One of my key strengths is my experience at all levels working with grassroots right up to advice given at senior government level. For instance, I have served as a teacher for three years in remote islands schools in the Pacific (with VSO), and from my work with PFnet, I have a broad experience of working with village communities and stakeholders to develop partnerships for development. I am consequently able to use this understanding to good effect when advising the government, as I do now; for instance on the sustainable use of ICT for the delivery of education in remote areas, and collaborative learning and content development. My WikiEducatior user page: <http://www.wikieducator.org/User:Leeming>

I have worked in collaborative activities in the region, for instance the regional consultations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

I have also been a key member of a small group of regional experts, now led by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, to design an Oceania implementation of the "One Laptop per Child" (OLPC, popularly known as the "\$100 laptop") programme. In this context, I have designed Trials to demonstrate the potential of OLPC for the region and provide robust data on their impacts for decision makers. Initial tests have been carried out with young children using 30 laptops donated by OLPC, and research questions designed in collaboration with the main regional university. Solomon Islands is now recognized by OLPC as an official participating country. OLPC Solomon Islands: [http://wiki.laptop.org/go/OLPC\\_Solomon\\_Islands](http://wiki.laptop.org/go/OLPC_Solomon_Islands). As a result of this work I have been invited to Boston by OLPC to discuss working with them on a Pacific wide distribution. I will be meeting directly with Nicholas Negroponte in May.

I am Managing Director of a newly Solomon Islands-incorporated company Leeming International Consulting that has been established to provide services in project and resource management, ICT for development, educational and distance learning technology including content development and remote area access. The company is founded on strong local knowledge, expertise and local networks.

### Education:

1981-1985 Salford University, UK

BSc (hons) 1st Class, Electronics and Acoustics. 2 University prizes.

### Language skills: (1 - excellent; 5 - basic)

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English (1st language)	1	1	1
Solomon Islands Pidjin	2	2	2
Polynesian (Rennellese)	4	4	5

### Areas of Expertise:

International Development:

- ICT for Development (in particular in education)
- eLearning and ICT for distance learning, SchoolNets
- Open Educational Resources (OERs), collaborative resource development using ICT
- Sustainable rural communications and networking
- ICT for sustainable rural development
- ICT strategy and policy development
- I am a regional expert on the One Laptop Per Child programme
- E-government and e-governance
- Project management
- Research and research management (scientific, impacts of ICT in development)
- Training and technology capacity building

## Curriculum Vitae – David Leeming

- Remote area power supplies, solar electrification
- 10 years experience of community development in Pacific island communities
- 3 years secondary teaching experience in rural Pacific Islands schools (VSO)

### ICT skills

- ICT for sustainable rural networking and delivery of services to remote areas
- HF radio email systems
- VSAT (satellite broadband) networking
- Wi-Fi and other remote and wireless access technologies
- Learning Management Systems (including Moodle, ATutor), synchronous and asynchronous interactive platforms and tuition tools
- Content development / course authoring systems / WikiEducator
- Interactive DVD
- Worldspace radio hybrid satellite broadcast access
- Databases (MS Access, MySQL)
- Project management (MS project), General computing, computer modeling, software development
- Network administration (monitoring, firewalls, content keepers, server applications)
- Website technologies (ASP, CMS, PHP, open source)
- FOSS, open source technologies (Linux, diverse applications)
- ISO 9001/TickIT software QA
- Active member of Pacific Internet Society
- Involvement in the World Summit on the Information Society Pacific consultations, 2002
- Member of Global Knowledge Partnership (through Rural Development Volunteers Association)
- Member of volunteer group working

### Other

- Health and Safety
- Quantified Risk Assessment
- Risk/Vulnerability Science
- Acoustics

### Referees:

(1) Edo Stork, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Change Management Specialist, Bureau of Management – Management Consulting Team (MCT)/Centre for Business Solutions (CBS), 1 UN Plaza - DC1-1790, New York, NY, 10017 - USA

tel: +1 212 906 6388 fax: + 1 212 906 66 01 Email [edo.stork@undp.org](mailto:edo.stork@undp.org)

(2) John Budden, Economic Infrastructure Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji.

[johnb@forumsec.org.fj](mailto:johnb@forumsec.org.fj)

(3) Richard Dalgarno, Advisor (2002-2007), Stabex99 Programme Implementation Unit, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, Solomon Islands (+677) 28807

[dalgarno@brucetelecom.com](mailto:dalgarno@brucetelecom.com)

(4) John Tuhaika, Permanent Secretary, Special Duties to the Office of the Cabinet, P.O.Box G1 Solomon Islands. Tel: +677 22202 Email: [tuhaika@pipolfastaem.gov.sb](mailto:tuhaika@pipolfastaem.gov.sb)

## Professional Experience

Date	Location	Company	Position	Description
Jan 2008 – June 2008 (30 days flex)	All 8 Pacific Islands countries of the Commonwealth	Commonwealth of Learning	Consultant / workshop facilitator	Running “Learning4Content” training workshops on collaborative content development for educationalists, one in each of eight Commonwealth country of the Pacific Islands, on collaborative resource development using the WikiEducator ( <a href="http://www.wikieducator.org/Learning4Content">www.wikieducator.org/Learning4Content</a> ) on behalf of the Commonwealth of Learning. The courses will be attended by key champions of education in each country, teachers, Ministry officials, curriculum development officers, etc. These are the first of up to 100 such workshops worldwide – I have been pioneering them for COL.
Nov07 - Jan08	Solomon Islands	Secretariat of the Pacific Community	Consultant 20-day part time	(a) To establish a wireless educational network in Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands (b) To complete preparations for proposed regional trials of the “One Laptop Per Child” programme (c) To consult with communities in Marovo Lagoon in preparation for the planned pilots of SPC's Rural Internet Connectivity System (RICS) This work allowed me to complete my expert inputs into components of an educational pilot started under the Distance Learning Centres Project (previous post). These inputs are critical to the regional pilots of OLPC and RICS – regarded by SPC as components of the Pacific Forum's Digital Strategy to reach out to remote and rural communities.
Nov/ Dec 07	Solomon Islands	UNDP	Consultant 10 day part time	Consulting and advice to Isabel Province Development Programme, Solomon Islands. Identification and recommendations on programming linkages for the Isabel Province e-Government and e-Governance system. Technical advice provided on the interconnection of rural networks, including People First Network (PFNet) email stations, community FM radio stations, distance learning centre and HF radio networks. Identification of e-government linkages by sector and e-governance linkages related to the Province's planning cycle, to enable increased participation and engagement of citizenry in the planning and development process. Output: report (available on request with permission of Honiara sub-office).
Dec 2004 - current	Solomon Islands	EU long term international TA, Ministry of Education, Solomon Islands	Project Manager 3-years full time	<b>This was a long-term EDF Technical Advisor position. As Manager of the Distance Learning Centres Project (DLCP) I managed a team of 11 project staff and 6 staff of the People First Network (PFnet), with a total budget of SBD 11 million (EUR 1.1m) over 4 years. Owing to the 50% rule, my contract as Manager could not be extended and I worked towards localising the project management post before I finished in Dec 2007.</b>  The Distance Learning Centres Project ( <a href="http://www.schoolnet.net.sb">www.schoolnet.net.sb</a> ) is an EU-funded component of the Education Sector Investment and Reform Programme (ESIRP). It is being implemented for the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development by the People First Network (PFnet) of the Rural Development Volunteers Association (RDVA). It is a 3-year project, that is now extended until the end of 2008. The project has established a pioneering network of distance learning centres hosted by rural community high schools in each province and equipped with broadband Internet through a newly established VSAT network. The centres are run as multipurpose community telecentres, building on PFnet's sustainable rural networking experience, and are expected to have wide impacts in rural development.  (continued next page)

## Professional Experience

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The project also worked closely with the Ministry to focus on the role that distance and flexible learning (DFL) can play across the full spectrum from literacy, vocational, continuing to academic education and training. The DLCP works with the divisions of the MEHRD to identify and pilot ways in which DFL and ICT can be leveraged to improve both the delivery and the quality of education. I have advised also on vital issues of sustainability and policy development, working with a specially-created Technical Working Group on distance and flexible learning.

The DLCP is also piloting innovative technology to reach out to more of the population, especially in remote and rural areas. The One Laptop per Child (OLPC) programme is an example of such a technology that might help solve the problem of rural access. As Project Manager, I realized the potential of OLPC and worked with a small group of regional experts to develop proposals for a regional Trial of OLPC for Oceania, specifically linked to the DLCP. The Trials will continue, to provide data upon which the regional governments can make decisions.

In my role as Manager I provided a model for the region that was championed at several International conferences, and is heralded as a best practice case study for the region. As such, I was invited to present results and recommendations following from the DLCP to the Forum Education Minister's Meeting, held in Auckland in Nov 2007.

The post required of me strong leadership and competence in project management, budgeting, reporting, technical leadership and advice, human resource development and training, community development and to work at all levels from the grassroots to senior government.

Oct 2000 – current	Solomon Islands	Long term variously funded	Technical Advisor to the People First Network (PFnet)	<p>PFnet is now an internationally-recognized best practice ICT4D project. It was established under the UNDP's Solomon Islands Development Administration and Participatory Planning Programme (SIDAPP) in Solomon Islands in 2001.</p> <p>I have been Technical Advisor from the beginning, when the PFnet concept was formulated in Nov 2000, initially employed under a UNDP SSA contract. When SIDAPP closed in Nov 2001, I took the project forward under the Rural Development Volunteers Association (RDVA), mobilizing donor funding and working with rural communities, developing linkages and building partnerships to secure a sustainable basis for PFnet.</p> <p>In my time as PFnet Technical Advisor the project has been nominated as a finalist in several international ICT4D competitions including the Stockholm Challenge, UNSECO Rural Communications Prize and the InfoDev ICT4D Stories Competition.</p>
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The People First Network, or PFnet, is a rural connectivity project, which aims to promote and facilitate equitable and sustainable rural development and peace building by enabling better information sharing and knowledge building among and across communities forming the Solomon Islands. The project has established an email system (now with over 30 stations nationally) based on a robust, proven and sustainable technology that permits remote locations on islands across thousands of square kilometres to have access to Internet emails using a simple computer, short-wave radio, and solar power, and PFnet is now working with partners to develop applications of the network in many sectors.

PFnet has established a sustainable rural network, based on community ownership, strengthened through multiple partnerships. Important applications that have served rural people using PFnet include distance learning, rural banking and finance, improved participation in public debate linked to peace building and reconciliation (for instance UNDP's PeacePac project), commerce and farmer's information. It has also been linked to rural livelihoods activities such as seaweed farming, and is now recognized as an important network to be used for disaster preparedness and response.

In my role as Technical Advisor, I have also advised on integrated rural communication strategies, and have contributed to the literature through research and participation in regional forums. For instance, in 2003 with technical assistance from UNDP, Fiji MCO, PFnet hosted a workshop on national ICT strategy building which started a process involving a wide stakeholder group that has improved awareness, professional networks and coordination of ICT in development in the country. The report was published in a major international journal. I then co-facilitated a similar workshop in PNG (see below).

My post was variously funded through UNDP (under a 6 month SSA contract, Aug 02-Feb03) and governments of UK, Japan and R.O.C. and NZAid via their local missions.

## Professional Experience

March 2006 (part time)	Australia	Curriculum Corporation International, Melbourne	Consultant	Wrote the technical proposal for a bid for the AusAid ICT Capacity Development Project for Solomon Islands
Nov 2004	PNG	UNDP short term international TA	Consultant	Co-facilitator, National ICT Strategy Building Workshop, UNDP PNG Office - see list of publications (5)
Oct 2004	Solomon Islands	Machinery of Government Project. AusAid short-term	Consultant	Short term advice on the establishment of a Solomon Islands Government website, including an analysis of wider eGovernment implications. Website is now established ( <a href="http://www.pmc.gov.sb">www.pmc.gov.sb</a> )
July 2004	PNG	Improvement of Rural Primary Education Facilities Project (EU)	Consultant	Short term advice on ICT for the delivery of education to remote rural primary schools in PNG (Company – Geomar International)
Jul 99 - Oct 00	Solomon Islands	UNDP / UNIDO project (SSA)	Webmaster / ICT officer	Established and localized a website <a href="http://www.commerce.gov.sb">www.commerce.gov.sb</a> and online business information service to support SME development in rural areas for the Solomon Islands Ministry of Commerce.
Feb 96 – Dec98	Solomon Islands	VSO	Volunteer	VSO maths/science teacher in 2 rural secondary schools. Installed solar power supplies in 2 rural schools.
Jan90 - Feb96	UK	Health and Safety Executive	Senior Scientific Officer	Research scientist, HSE's Research Laboratory. Quantified Risk assessment applied to the transport of dangerous goods. Advised the HSE Major Hazard Assessment Unit and developed computer tools for the assessment of hazards, which are used in public enquiries and strategic planning with regard to health and safety.
Aug88 -Jan90	UK	Building design Partnership, Manchester	Acoustics consultant	Assistance to the acoustics group. Various noise surveys, computer modelling of noise from Channel Tunnel, etc.
Oct 87 - Aug88	UK	University of Sheffield	Research Assistant	Post-graduate research, computer modeling of auditorium acoustics
Jun86 -Oct 87	UK	Enviro-systems Ltd. Lancaster	Electronics engineer	Diagnostics and repair of electronics.
Sep83 -Jun 84	Norway	Christian Michelson Institute, Bergen	Undergrad research assistant	University “year out” industrial experience.

## Professional Experience

### **Publications / International conferences**

#### ICT for Development

1. Guest Speaker, ICT Policy Workshop, University of Papua New Guinea, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008
2. *The Islands of Wisdom (and Learning), The role of Distance and Flexible Learning in the Solomon islands education system*, Leeming, D., Paper presented to the Pacific Forum Education Minister's Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand, 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007. Available with PowerPoint presentation from the author on request – or via the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.
3. *The Solomon Islands Distance Learning Centre Project, 3 presentations on implementation, experience and community response, and mainstreaming and exit strategy*, Pacific Internet Society PacINET 2007 conference, Honiara, Solomon Islands, 15-22 Aug 2007 (powerpoints can be downloaded from [www.peoplefirst.net.sb/DLCP](http://www.peoplefirst.net.sb/DLCP))
4. *The One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) Oceania Initiative*, Panel presentation chaired by Dr Jimmie Rodgers, DG, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, at the PacINET 2007 conference, Honiara, Au 2007
5. *OLPC Oceania's Participatory Development Plan*, article on OLPC News website [http://www.olpcnews.com/implementation/plan/olpc\\_participatory\\_development.html](http://www.olpcnews.com/implementation/plan/olpc_participatory_development.html)
6. *Using ICT to deliver education services to remote areas*, Presentation made to the "Delivering Education Services to Remote Areas" forum, Divine Word University, Madang, Papua New Guinea, Aug 17-18, 2006
7. *Teacher Training via Distance Learning Telecentres in Solomon Islands* Presentation, eLearning Africa Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 25-26 2006
8. Leeming D, Pitia P; *The Distance Learning Centres Project: A Solomon Islands School/Net*, Pacific Internet Society, Tarawa, Kiribati, Aug 2005, the Continuing Education Conference, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Aug 2005 and the AADES International Conference, Sydney, Sep 2005. Downloadable from [www.peoplefirst.net.sb/DLCP/Documents.htm](http://www.peoplefirst.net.sb/DLCP/Documents.htm)
9. Chand, A; Leeming. D et al.; *The Impact of ICT on Rural Development in Solomon Islands: The PFnet Case*; JICA/USP research program, ISBN 982-01-0629-X, 2005 [http://www.usp.ac.fj/jica/ict\\_research/pfnet\\_case\\_study/pfnet\\_intro.html](http://www.usp.ac.fj/jica/ict_research/pfnet_case_study/pfnet_intro.html)
10. Contribution to book: *Exploring New Modalities; Experiences with ICT Interventions in the Asia-Pacific Region, Chapter 14: A Distance Learning Application of the Solomon Islands People First Network (PFnet)* by UNDP Asia Pacific Development Information Programme (APDIP), UNDP-APDIP ICT4D Series 2006, Elsevier, ISBN 81-312-0630-0.
11. Stork, E; Leeming, D.; Biliki, R. (2003) *Solomon Islands ICT Strategy Workshop Report*, the Electronic Journal on Information Systems in Developing Countries. <http://www.ejisd.org/ojs2/index.php/ejisd/issue/view/72>
12. Stork, E; Leeming, D. (2004) *Papua New Guinea National ICT Workshop Report*, [http://www.undp.org.pg/documents/PNG\\_National\\_ICT\\_Workshop\\_Report\\_2.12.2004\\_final.pdf](http://www.undp.org.pg/documents/PNG_National_ICT_Workshop_Report_2.12.2004_final.pdf)
13. *Education through wireless networking in Solomon Islands*, Leeming, D.G., Presentation to the Pacific Forum Education Minister's Meeting, Apia, Samoa, January 2004 [http://www.usp.ac.fj/fileadmin/files/Institutes/pride/Resource\\_centre/Forum/forum4/08\\_PFN\\_Case\\_study.pdf](http://www.usp.ac.fj/fileadmin/files/Institutes/pride/Resource_centre/Forum/forum4/08_PFN_Case_study.pdf)

## Professional Experience

14. Leeming D., (2003) *Education through Wireless Networking in Solomon Islands*, Asia Media Information and Communications Centre AMIC, 12th Annual Meeting, Singapore, Nov 2003 (Download at [www.peoplefirst.net.sb/downloads/amic.zip](http://www.peoplefirst.net.sb/downloads/amic.zip))
15. Leeming D., (2003), *Challenges for Sustainable Rural Networking in Solomon Islands*, ICTP Round Table on Science for Developing Countries, Oct 2003  
<http://www.peoplefirst.net.sb/downloads/ICTP-PFnet-Oct03.zip>  
Published in "Rural Transformation, Socio-Economic Issues", ed. Bhargava H., Kumar D.; ICFAI University Press, Hyderabad, India, 2006. ISBN 81-314-0090-5
16. Presentation on the People First Network to the AGM of the Global Knowledge Partnership, Rome, May 2003 (and membership ceremony for RDVA)
17. Leeming D., (2003) *Input Paper for the Solomon Islands People First Network*, World Summit on the Information Society, Tokyo Regional Meeting, Jan 2003.  
[http://www.wsis-japan.jp/documents/ngo\\_10.pdf](http://www.wsis-japan.jp/documents/ngo_10.pdf)
18. People First Network web pages [www.peoplefirst.net.sb](http://www.peoplefirst.net.sb)
19. Distance Learning Centres Project / Solomon Islands SchooNet pages  
[www.schoolnet.net.sb](http://www.schoolnet.net.sb)

### Quantified Risk Assessment (Major Industrial Hazards)

- 1) *Analysis of Risk Model Estimates for the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, FF Saccomanno, DG Leeming, A Stewart, Proceedings of the International Consensus Conference on the transport of Dangerous Goods, Toronto, Canada, April 1992.  
Published by the University of Waterloo Press, Ontario, Canada
- 2) *Use of QRA to compare the risks of transporting chlorine by road and rail*, DG Leeming and FF Saccomanno, 1993 Hazmat Transportation Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, July 1993
- 3) *Effect of Transport Mode on the Risks from Handling Chlorine at a Major Industrial Facility in the UK*, DG Leeming and FF Saccomanno, Emergency Response ER93 International Conference on the Practical Approach to Hazardous Materials, St.Johns, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept 1993
- 4) *Risk Assessment in the Process Industries*, Contribution to book published by IchemE 1996, ISBN 0852953232
- 5) *Effect of Road and Traffic Characteristics on Accidents Involving Heavy Goods Vehicles* L Liu, D Leeming and J Wilday, Proceedings of the Truck Safety Conference, Toronto, 1996

**Personal Interests:** Outdoor pursuits (hang gliding at competition level), running, literature, current affairs, appropriate technology, pets.\_

SIGNED:

David Leeming  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2008